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# Department of State TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-18

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INR-07 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
PM-03 AID-12 PRS-01 USIA-04 DODE-00 RSR-01 RSC-01
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4805

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7442

LIMDIS

SUBJ: U.S. POLICY ON VIETNAM ELECTIONS

REF: A. SAIGON 6169
B. STATE 81246

1. EXISTING EMBASSY FILES DO NOT CONTAIN BASIC DOCUMENT EXACTLY COMPARABLE TO GUIDELINES SUGGESTED REFTEL A. MOST 1967 FILES HAVE BEEN RETIRED IN ACCORDANCE STANDARD INSTRUCTONS.

2. AT INITIAL MEETING OF SAIGON INTERAGENCY ELECTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 8, 1967, THE MINUTES RECORD THAT COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS PHILIP C. HABIB "EMPHASIZED...THE DESIRABILITY OF THE ELECTIONS BEING A GVN OPERATON IN FACT AS WELL AS IN THEORY, WITH ANY AMERICAN ROLE BEING KEPT INVISIBLE; AND THE POLICY THAT THE US WOULD OFFER NO SUPPORT TO CANDIDATES." THUS POSSIBLE WASHINGTON INSTRUCTON MIGHT HAVE BEEN SENT TO EMBASSY PRIOR TO THAT DATE.

3. AMBASSADOR BUNKER ON AUGUST 14, 1967, SENT A LETTER WITH SEVERAL ENCLOSURES TO ALL ELEMENTS OF THE US MISSION CONCERNING THE PRESIDENTIAL AND UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS. THIS LETTER EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ELECTIONS AND STATES HOW THE PRESIDENTIAL AND SENATORIAL ELECTIONS STOOD AT THAT TIME. THE ENCLOSURES INCLUDED TALKING POINTS FOR USE WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS,

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izenberg DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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FOREIGN OBSERVERS, AND THE PRESS; A SUMMARY OF A RECENT MESSAGE REFUTING ALLEGATIONS THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WAS NOT BEING CONDUCTED FAIRLY; AND A JULY 15 SPEECH BY THE AMBASSADOR TO THE VIETNAMESE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION. (LETTER AND ENCLOSURES BEING POUCHED.)

4. A PORTION OF THE TALKING POINTS SIMILAR TO THE INSTRUCTIONS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION READS AS FOLLOWS; BEGIN TEXT

US SUPPORTS NO CANDIDATE; WE HAVE TAKEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASIZE TO GVN OFFICIALS, CANDIDATES, THE PRESS, AND OTHERS THAT BEGIN UNDERLINE WE NEITHER SUPPORT NOR OPPOSE ANY CANDIDATE, SLATE, FACTION OR POLITICAL PARTY. THAT IS UNITED STATES POLICY. END UNDERLINE. FAIR AND HONEST ELECTIONS; WE HAVE ALSO MADE A GREAT EFFORT TO EMPHASIZE TO GVN OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS BEGIN UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY OF HOLDING FAIR AND HONEST ELECTIONS. END V UNDERLINE. THEY WILL DEMONSTRATE TO THE WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY TO THE VIET CONG AND NORTH VIETNAM, THAT THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM CAN AND WILL SELECT THEIR OWN WAY OF LIFE, IN A LEGAL, ORDERLY AND DEMOCRATIC WAY. END TEXT

5. WE DO NOT HAVE DOCUMENTS A, F, G AND H LISTED PARA 1 REFTEL. PLEASE POUCH COPIES.
BUNKER

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